UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Epistemological Foundations of Midwifery Sciences

2627-1-K0103D003-K0103D00302

Aims

By the end of the course, students will have acquired an understanding of the epistemological foundations of Midwifery and will be able to develop critical and reflective thinking regarding the knowledge, practices and models of care adopted within the midwifery profession.

Contents

The course will explore the foundational elements of midwifery science and contribute to strengthening professional identity. Students will examine the distinctive features of Midwifery and understand its nature as a profession, discipline and science. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills required to critically engage with theories developed within the field of Midwifery and to recognize the philosophical and theoretical foundations underpinning different levels of theorization that can inform and guide midwifery research and practice. The course will also provide students with the conceptual knowledge and analytical frameworks that serve as a foundation for the subsequent study of Midwifery Research Methodology.

Detailed program

The epistemological contours of midwifery: ontology, ethics, and epistemology. Epistemology, the paradigmatic shift, and methodological implications. The objective problematic status of midwifery and creative thinking. Natural sciences vs. human sciences: knowing/explaining/prescribing vs. understanding/interpreting/participating (P. Ricoeur). The body of midwifery knowledge: midwifery constructs; levels of midwifery theories; mental, physical, and graphic representations of midwifery theories; the Midwifery Partnership Model; midwifery as *phrónesis* through reflective thinking; partnership and competence development. The methodological framework of midwifery: the need for classification—the ICF in the light of evidence-based practice, expertise, and maternal choice.

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching form

4 in-person lectures of 4 hours each; individual and group exercises, guided study, and the preparation of a written paper.

Textbook and teaching resource

Guilliland K., Pairman S. (2011) The Midwifery Partnership. Un modello per la professione ostetrica, SEU;
Antiseri D. (2000) Didattica delle Scienze- Epistemologia, Roma: Armando editore;
Guana M. et al. (2011) La disciplina ostetrica: teoria, pratica e organizzazione della professione, Milano: McGraw-Hill;
I.C.F. (2008) Classificazione Internazionale del funzionamento della Salute, Erickson.

Semester

First year, first semester

Assessment method

Oral exam accompanied by a written paper.

Office hours

By appointment, scheduled with the teachers via email.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY